

Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer Semi-annual Report:

April 1st, 2001 – September 30th, 2001

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I. INTRODUCTION

ACDI/VOCA's current Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer (WWFtF) activity has completed the original five-year cooperative agreement period, and has moved into a two-year extension. Since the beginning of the five-year cycle, ACDI/VOCA volunteers have provided substantial technical assistance to a wide variety of clientele in six countries. Though each country has a diverse set of technical assistance needs, the majority of these assignments has been devoted to institutionally strengthening a select group of farmer and environmental organizations. As the five-year effort evolved, this pool of clientele shifted with the addition of new programs in Mongolia and Africa Regional due to political problems in Cambodia and Eritrea, respectively.

II. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In the second half of fiscal year 2001, a total of 20 ACDI/VOCA volunteer assignments were completed in four countries (Bolivia was inactive during the reporting period, awaiting a new start-up on October 1, and there were no placements in Tanzania.) The 20 assignment completions brought total ACDI/VOCA WWFtF volunteer assignment completions in year five to 48. Seven completions by BARA during this reporting period raise the combined A/V-BARA total to 27 for the period, 57 for year five. The five-year assignment target was 292 (A/V 247, BARA 45); actual completions were 294 (A/V 250, BARA 44.)

The Mongolia program, the abrupt withdrawal of local USAID Mission support notwithstanding, continued to produce strong impacts on local institution development, animal health, the adoption of modern meat industry sanitary standards, increases in livestock productivity and survival rates during harsh winter conditions and otherwise, improvements in grain productivity levels, national-level dissemination of information and impacts, national policy-level reform influences, and more. Over a relatively short program life, given that Mongolia entered the FtF activity in year two, in our view the program there achieved excellent results. Since this component closed out in year five, we will provide a more extensive coverage of its activities and achievements in this document, presenting what would be akin to an end-of-project report. Admittedly the Mongolia coverage will be rather extensive, but it should prove to be interesting reading.

If anything else on the positive side came out of the Mongolia close-down, it would be that the resources requested for Mongolia for the extension period have been reprogrammed for Rwanda at USAID/Rwanda's longstanding request and with BHR/PVC's blessing.

The reporting period witnessed the development of a solidified Kenya program with strong prospects for positive impacts and growth during the extension period, as we discuss below. Another positive development was the re-emergence of solid project opportunities in Tanzania after a stagnant period during which producer groups and key national supporters regrouped and are now poised for interesting work under FtF.

While Bolivia was dormant under FtF during the reporting period, the A/V office was not inactive. As it worked out, A/V developed and received funding for several new projects with

small farmer groups, and many of the projects have requested a programmatic relationship with FtF. In short, the anticipated re-start of FtF in Bolivia helped us leverage new projects, and they will be assisted now and then by key placements of FtF volunteer specialists. USAID/Bolivia itself was very pleased to see the evolution of these new synergies.

The Ethiopia program continued to contribute strongly as the flagship activity for agricultural cooperative development in the country. The training-of-trainers approach through the use of volunteer specialists training extensionists to spread detailed knowledge of correct practices in cooperative organization, governance, management and overall operations has literally taken the message to legions of cooperative member farmers. We are not aware of a country program anywhere else that has had this positive and enormous spread effect.

This report provides the following additional statistical information: Attachment I depicts project completions by country for Fiscal Year 2001; Attachment II illustrates the total number of volunteers by country; Attachment III shows the number of assignments per country; Attachment IV demonstrates the male-to-female ratio for the first half of FY 2001; Attachment V cites ACIDI/VOCA volunteers by state or country for the first half of FY 2001; Attachment VI depicts WWFtF projects by category-type; and Attachment VII lists the total completed ACIDI/VOCA WWFtF assignments by end-date.

III. PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As noted above, the reporting period saw us exceed the five-year target of 292 assignments by two by completing 27 field assignments between April 1 and September 30, or 101% of target.

On the expenditure side, the \$4,370,338 reported as expended for the five-year life-of-project also represents 101% of the authorized amount (\$4,326,000) at the original EOP milestone.

During the reporting period field and headquarters staff continued to program volunteer assignments for year six, and our Greater Horn team worked on the organization of the small Kenya office for operations during the extension period.

Headquarters staff carried out liaison activities with the representatives of the four HBCU institutions, and finalized arrangements for formal program orientations with them at the outset of year six (which indeed took place recently.)

The Mongolia program provided its final deliverables in the form of volunteers, seminars and trainings conducted, and the preparation of a final report that covered activities up to the last week of September. Our country representative was given official recognition for our program's major contributions to Mongolia's agricultural sector at a ceremony presided over by a senior committee (Environment and Rural Development) chairman of parliament as she wound up her tenure for us in the country.

IV. COUNTRY PROGRAM SUMMARIES

A. ETHIOPIA

Program Overview

The Greater Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, is one of the poorest regions in the world with GNP per capita of \$167 and growth rates which were negative throughout most of the 1980s. As political instability increased, food production plummeted and the structural food deficit worsened. In 1994 an estimated 22 million people in the region required external food assistance, as per capita food production declined 16% from 1980-1993.

Failed policies and the disintegration of civil society led to the collapse of free markets and sustained economic decline throughout the Horn. Population growth outpaced economic growth, leading to altered labor and trade movements. Greater Horn food deficits are expected to rise in the early part of the next century.

Changes in government and new-found stability in countries within the region offer hope for a transition from relief to development. The focus of activity has shifted from relief activities to identifying local and regional solutions for increased cooperation and development. However, after the introduction of market- economy as the guiding economic principle of the government there is observed significant growth of the economy since the mid -1990s.

Ethiopia as the second poorest country in the world whose more than half of the population lives in abject poverty is one of the beneficiaries of this program. The program initiative is based in the recognition of grass-roots approach to effectively eliminate the root causes of food insecurity and political instability and reduce economic vulnerability.

ACDI/VOCA-Ethiopia has been in operation since June 1994. So far the program has been successfully implemented through concerted and collaborative approaches which have been developed with host and partner organizations.

The current phase of the ACDI/VOCA-Ethiopia Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) program started on October 1, 1996 and ended on September 30, 2001. The program was designed to support the government and donor-assisted efforts and to create synergies with the ongoing efforts to ameliorate food security, which is a perfect fit with USAID's strategic objectives.

Objectives of the Program

The objectives of the program have been:

- strengthened support for effective regional and national food security strategies;
- to support strategies to ensure the transition from crisis to broad-based sustainable growth.

Program Activities

FtF program implementation started by designing courses in Cooperative Development and Management by American volunteers, followed by training of trainers (TOT) in business-oriented and professionally-managed Western types of cooperatives.

The training was demonstrated in a pilot Cooperative Union development project in Oromia, which has proved to be an efficient and sustainable cooperative model. Best practices are replicated in Amhara, South and the Tigray Regional State through the ACE program.

The activities of the program are the following:

- Provide volunteer technical assistance with a view to address food security in grain production, storage/handling, processing, and marketing;
- Render technical assistance on sustainable agricultural practices that can protect remaining forest cover;
- Reverse environmental degradation, and improve sustainable land management;
- Enhance technical assistance in watershed and range management, dryland forestry, and irrigation technology;
- Partner with host country institutions including emerging private agribusiness;
- Support the efforts of SG-2000 in its implementation of hybrid technology packages in the high-producing regions of Ethiopia;
- Enhance the grain production program through technical assistance to improve the private agricultural input supply sector.

Major achievements of the FtF program can be summarized as follows:

1. The cooperative movement gained momentum and FtF intervention led to the formation of a Cooperative Union and later to the ACE - Project that has made a breakthrough in the formation of viable, business-oriented unions in Oromia, Amhara and Southern Regional States. Union formation in Tigray is currently underway.
2. Cooperatives started and continue to pay dividends, as the lives of farmer-members have shown a gradual quality change in the increase in the level of household income in the form of dividend payments.
3. Alemaya University of Agriculture has upgraded its capacity in the identification of training needs and in the establishment of distance education.
4. Agarfa Farmers Training Center and Yekatit 25 Cooperative Institute now have a curriculum and syllabus. These are applied and new cooperative managers and leaders have benefitted from the teaching materials that are prepared in the spirit of democracy, business and self-governance.
5. The Veterinary Faculty of Addis Ababa University has been able to graduate vet doctors through the technical assistance provided by FtF resources in availing an external examiner.

6. The Livestock Marketing Authority is a recently established government agency entrusted with the promotion of livestock export and development of markets. As a new agency it faced serious capacity problems. FtF volunteers intervened in increasing the capacity of the Authority in the areas of market research, market strategy, meat quality and standardization and meat Inspection not only to the staff of the Authority but also to the agribusiness community in the area.
7. ORDA is an NGO working for rehabilitation and development in the chronically food deficit areas and has been technically assisted by the FtF program. FtF resources were also used to establish the management information system of Amhara Credit and Savings Institute (ACSI).
8. Regional Cooperative Offices of four Regional States have been assisted by FtF interventions and about four million farmer-members are the indirect beneficiaries of the project.
9. The Southern Region Bureau of Agriculture has been supported through the training of its technical staff in various fields related to the ongoing agricultural extension package program mainly focusing on ensuring food security in the region.

Program Accomplishments

Since the start of the program in October 1996, 86 volunteer assignments have been completed (A/V 54, BARA 32), out of which nine (A/V 5, BARA 4) occurred in this reporting period. Details of the assignments undertaken from April 1 - September 30, 2001 are as follows:

FtF Volunteer Assignments

April 1- September 30, 2001

No.	Volunteers Name	Assignment Title	Assign. No.	Assignment Period	Host Organization
1	Bruce Rider	Training on Soil and Water Conservation	152018	Apr 9 –27	Southern Bureau of Agriculture
2	Ronald Atkinson	Training on Farm Management	152021	June 18 – July 7	Southern Bureau of Agriculture
3	Wesley Eckert	Organization and Management of Dairy Coops	152022	May 26 – June 16	Amhara Coop Bureau
4	Dr. Penelope Sue Greenberg	Cooperative Accounting	BARA a	Aug 4-28	Amhara Coop Bureau
5	Carol Haygood	Coop. Credit Management	BARA b	July 15- Aug. 7	Amhara Coop Bureau
6	Christopher	Coop Accounting	BARA c	July 28 Aug 19	South Coop

	Richied				Office
7	David Willet	Coop. Credit Management	BARA d	Aug 23 – Sept 11	South Coop Office
8	James Bell	Project Planning and Management	152023	Aug 20 – Sept 11	Southern Region Bureau of Agriculture
9	Nancy Walker	Rural Women's Org. Capacity Building	152019	Mar 23- Apr 21	Southern Region Bureau of Agriculture

All nine assignments were carried out at a regional level and immediate impact is to be realized at that level. Technical assistance provided to the Southern and Amhara Regional Cooperatives Offices have significantly contributed to improve the accounting and credit management procedures and practices of co-ops. Similarly, the training programs provided for the Southern Region Bureau of Agriculture in Soil and Water Conservation program by Mr. Bruce Rider; followed by a training course in dry-land farming, by a local consultant, and a project planning and management course by James Bell undoubtedly contributed to improving the quality of environmental rehabilitation program interventions and the planning and implementation process of the agricultural extension package program at the national level.

Program Direction

No major changes.

Business Development

No proposal was submitted or developed in connection with FtF program.

B. MONGOLIA

Program Overview

The program in Mongolia started 1998 as a substitute for the program in Cambodia, where it was no longer possible to work due to instabilities in the country. The program was terminated in September 2001 and ACDI/VOCA field staff closed down the office.

Program Accomplishments

Cashmere Breed Improvement Project

Three breeding group cooperatives built dipping pits in 3 project soums (counties) in Bayankhongor aimag (province) with assistance of the project. The local government office of each soum cooperated to release land for the respective sites. All the cooperative herders worked together to build the dipping pits, supply physical labor and supply local materials such as sand, rocks and water.

Project herders and manager trainers, with participation of the Bayankhongor Governor's Office and other cashmere processors and companies planned the "Bayankhongor Breeding Livestock

Expo and Purebred Cashmere Buck Auction.” This auction was the first breeding buck auction to be held in the country since the privatization of the livestock in the early 1990s.

The breeding group of Shinejinst, with participation of the local government, organized the first cashmere auction in the country since the privatization without any project assistance. The number of attendees was 50 and about five tons of fiber were sold to the cashmere traders and sales representatives of the cashmere processors. The auction netted the participants a premium price of \$1 over the daily market price on the day of the auction.

Veterinary Privatization Assistance

A survey was made to determine if private veterinarians wrote business plans and kept records in 2001. From sixty-six veterinarians that participated in the survey, 53% stated that they made business plans. The individuals surveyed were asked a series of questions about record keeping. Ninety-two percent answered that they kept records of some kind.

Dr. Robert Eckroade, ACDI/VOCA volunteer, reviewed and made recommendations on modifications of the Mongolian veterinary curriculum and how they can develop a continuing education program for graduate veterinarians at the Veterinary Faculty of the Mongolian Agricultural University. According to Dr. Orgil, dean of the Veterinary Faculty, the faculty has developed a new veterinary curriculum reflecting the volunteer’s recommendations, which were to be implemented in the fall semester of 2001.

Conservation Tillage Project

This project was initiated in 1999. Six farms in Selenge and Darhan-Uul provinces were involved in the project for demonstration purposes. The utilized U.S.-manufactured equipment - four John Deere disc drills for direct seeding and six Blumhardt sprayers. Applied research was carried out to compare different fertilizer application rates, a Monsanto herbicide (Roundup), and wheat seeds from the U.S.A., Canada and Kazakhstan.

Intensive training and field days provided by ACDI/VOCA volunteers formed the basis for understanding conservation technology and the importance of introducing it at the levels of farmers, agricultural professionals and policymakers.

The many innovations introduced under this project (see the Mongolia attachments for details) created great interest and positive responses among farmers. During this reporting period, the National Conference of Farmers, a meeting of producers and agricultural professionals, advocated the expansion of the ACDI/VOCA research trials to a nationwide scale. As a result, the Mongolian government approved a program called "Fallow-2001", which envisaged chemical fallow on 12,500 hectares and provided financing to import 32,000 liters of Roundup. 20 farmers leased the Blumhardt sprayers, and our project supplied pumps and nozzles to farmers to utilize on their own Russian sprayers.

An ACDI/VOCA volunteer convinced farmers that it is important to leave residue on the field after harvest for moisture retention and build-up of organic matter in the soil, and he showed them how to modify and install a straw spreader on Russian combines. Since that innovation was accepted, farmers purchased 50 combines with straw chopping and spreading equipment.

ACDI/VOCA provided 10 tons of Kazakhstanskaya-10 Super Elite wheat seeds (with Mission funds under the SPICE Program) to a demonstration farm in 2000, which multiplied to 35 tons, with a yield of 1.7 tons/hectare, in comparison with a country average of 0.8 tons/hectare. During this reporting period, this variety was being multiplied on two farms on 110 hectares.

In May 2001, Sh. Gungaadorj, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Environment and Rural Development of the Parliament, invited Jeanne Bartholomew, ACDI/VOCA project director, to express his appreciation of ACDI/VOCA. He commended ACDI/VOCA for its pioneering initiatives, hard work and the longest experience in introduction of advanced technology in Mongolia for efficient and ecologically sound use of agricultural land in the long run.

Agro Processing Project (Meat Export & Vegetable Processing)

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia restructured its State Food Safety and Agriculture Inspection Agency (SFSAIA), bringing the national meat inspection system under its control. The meat inspectors had been employees of and loyal to the plants they inspected before this change. This had caused a serious conflict of interest issue for export prior to this year.

ACDI/VOCA lead the SFSAIA through the complete rewrite of the National Meat Inspection Regulations, which now meet international standards. ACDI/VOCA staff worked side-by-side daily with SFSAIA through the writing, translation and multiple rewritings and translations until the Minister of Agriculture signed the regulations on May 3, 2001.

Eviin Khuch Company exported 357 tons of horsemeat for \$800/ton to Russia in June of 2001, an export facilitated by international inspection standards being in place in Mongolia.

Volunteer projects completed in this reporting period:

154016--- Farm Management for Demo Wheat Farms - Steve Vogelzan

The volunteer conducted a three-day seminar on farm management, visited farms to get an overview of farm management and record keeping, developed some initial data collection forms and analysis tools, and reviewed the use of spreadsheets for decision analysis. The volunteer recommended developing a good communication system for agriculture to keep everyone informed of rapidly changing situations. He also recommended development of an additional three-year plan to evaluate the adaptation and effectiveness of the introduced minimum till technology and development of a distance education program to follow up on initial farm management improvement.

154017---Meat Inspection Training - John F. Edwards

The volunteer served as a team lecturer during 18 days of workshops and later provided guidance to the “hands-on” training. The volunteer taught meat inspection officers pre-slaughter treatment of animals resting in holding pens. He gave a theoretical and actual demonstration of the ante-mortem procedure for food animals and postmortem examination, including the incision of lymph nodes and examination of carcasses and internal organs. He also instructed the inspectors on the sequence of post-mortem inspection: head, viscera and carcass inspections, methods of

presentation for inspection of the parts, the cleanliness of the dressing operation, and carcass identification.

154018---Veterinary Meat Training: Animal Slaughter Procedure, Carcass Cutting and Meat Processing - Ted H. Montgomery, Ph.D

The volunteer served as a team lecturer during 18 days of the workshop and later provided guidance to the “hands on training.” The volunteer gave lectures to meat inspection officers on the following topics:

- Proper slaughtering procedures
- Proper carcass cutting
- Processing: making sausages, ham and other meat products
- Advice on how to develop and sustain a viable meat inspection program.

154019---Dairy Product Processing – Sector Assessment - Poul M.T.Hansen, Ph.D

The volunteer spent nearly 10 days in Mongolia to assess progress in the training of milk processing. During this time, he was the guest of (1) the Association of Manufacturers of Mongolian Dairy Products, (2) the Mongolian Association of Dairy Farmers and (3) the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The volunteer visited Ikh Tamir soum in Arkhangai aimag as well as farms in UB aimag and dairy plants and government offices in UB city. Recommendations were made for better safety and quality of milk and for improved marketability of some milk products. Detailed recommendations were formulated for accelerated training of young farmers in milk processing, sanitation, and hygiene. The volunteer established direct contact with more than 30 professionals and met with close to one hundred people on separate occasions. Successful implementation of the recommendations for training of young dairy farmers and cattle herders will affect all the people in Mongolia’s rural districts in a positive way.

154021---Purebred Cashmere Buck Auction - Kimberly A. Fabrizius

The Bayankhongor Breeding Livestock Expo and Purebred Cashmere Buck Auction was held on September 9 and 10, 2001. This auction was the first breeding buck auction to be held in Bayankhongor aimag since the privatization of the livestock in the early 1990s. The volunteer assisted, organized and trained officials for both the livestock judging day and the auction day of the event.

154022---Seed Cleaning and Storage, Farm Level - LeRoy A. Spilde, Ph.D

The main objective of this project was to train farm managers, agronomists, engineers and employees of wheat farms in seed cleaning, grading and seed storage to maintain quality. Seminars covering the attributes of high-quality seed were presented at the selected farms. Seminars were presented to 91 faculty members and agronomy students at the Mongolian Plant Science and Agricultural Research and Training Institute located at Darkhan and Agricultural Training Institute in Shaamar. Recommendations made by the volunteer included the requiring of new equipment for seed handling and the need to evaluate and approve additional crops and varieties.

141006---Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Acquisition of Products and Distribution - John W. Pankhur

An assessment was made of the current environment for veterinary pharmaceuticals. The primary focus was an evaluation of the procedures for registration of imported and locally-produced drugs in Mongolia, a determination of how this affects the availability of products to privatized practicing veterinarians, and suggestions as to how this system might be improved. In addition, an assessment was made of the role of companies producing or importing veterinary pharmaceuticals and biologicals in facilitating the provision of products to the private veterinarian.

141017---Veterinary Project Evaluation - Ed Monty

The focus of the assignment was to evaluate all aspects of, and the effectiveness of, the ACIDI/VOCA Veterinary Assistance Program in Mongolia, including training, field studies, capacity building and advising. The ACIDI/VOCA veterinary assistance program was an overall success. It provided important assistance to the development of privatized veterinary practices in Bayankhongor, Selenge, Darkhan, Arkhangai, Bulgan, Ovorkhangai, and Orkhon aimags. The accomplishments are particularly impressive when the severe constraint of bad weather, rough terrain, bad roads, poor infrastructure, and long distances are considered. While not all goals of the rather ambitious proposal were met, most of the important ones were. There were changes made to respond to changing conditions. The veterinary assistance program was required to spend significant time on the recent foot and mouth outbreak in Mongolia, which set them back somewhat.

141018---Veterinary Medical Curriculum Development - Robert J. Eckroade

The volunteer assisted the veterinary school of the National Mongolian Agricultural University to review and reevaluate their veterinary medical curriculum and in the development of a standardized program for veterinary continuing education. He also assisted government officials and the veterinary associates in a plan to incorporate veterinary continuing education into a "veterinary practice act" of Parliament and presented a seminar to faculty of the veterinary school on the University of Pennsylvania and its curriculum and teaching program. He presented a lecture to second-year veterinary students on avian influenza and made a public exit seminar. The suggested changes in the Mongolian veterinary curriculum were designed to provide the graduate of the veterinary school with the skills to be able to assume entry-level responsibilities for government regulatory diagnostic and private practice work.

141021---"Farmer" Monthly Magazine/Journalist Training - Tim White

In an effort to gain an understanding of the status of Mongolian agriculture and determine reception of a monthly magazine as well as potential stories and other contributions to such magazine, visits were made to ten agricultural organizations and three Mongolian farm companies. To determine the most economically feasible way to publish the magazine, contact visits were made to six printing operations and one newspaper business. A team of three consultants was contracted for a one-week term to help shape the publication and compete for the editor position. Information is a precious commodity for Mongolian wheat and vegetable farmers and their families. There are currently no monthly magazines for farmers. Farmers, researchers, organization representatives, teachers, and editors have indicated that Mongolian farms would welcome such a publication.

141022---Veterinary Pharmaceuticals: Establishment of a Buyer's Cooperative - Peter Dawson

The goal was to assist the Mongolian Veterinary Association in forming buyers' cooperatives and to improve the supply and distribution of veterinary pharmaceuticals to veterinarians and herders. However, the volunteer did not recommend forming a cooperative because under Mongolian law there is no limited liability for members and there is double taxation on both the organization and its members. In fact, MVPA is operating as a cooperative in principle and is functioning quite well under difficult circumstances currently being experienced in the veterinary pharmaceutical marketplace.

As mentioned above, we attach (at the end of this document) more detailed reports and narratives which provide interesting reading and a feel for the nationwide presence and impact of this program in Mongolia. At the risk of providing some repetitive information and perhaps excessive detail, we have chosen to include all the program summary and wrap-up information prepared by Jeanne Bartholomew in recognition of her efforts right to the end.

C. GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

Program Overview

Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer (WWFTF) in the Greater Horn of Africa was an ACDI/VOCA program that completed its third and final year of implementation in this reporting period under the 1996-2001 FtF cycle. The program, focusing on Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, managed the implementation of 42 assignments (A/V - 30, 12 through BARA) in the region by the end of September 30, 2001. Funding originally allocated for Eritrea was reprogrammed to a regional effort to enhance food security in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. ACDI/VOCA-Uganda houses the regional office in Kampala that coordinates these projects.

The principal goals of the Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer Program in the Greater Horn of Africa are: (1) to enhance food security and market-access opportunities by working with farmer-based cooperatives and smallholder associations at the grass-roots level; (2) strengthen the capacity of institutions working for agricultural development; and (3) utilize local capacity and technology to improve agricultural production for local and export markets. The tremendous progress attained in Uganda can be attributed to the solid foundation ACDI/VOCA has laid in Uganda in the last six and half years, the dedication of the program staff and the good relationship ACDI/VOCA has enjoyed with USAID, our partner organizations and clients.

ACDI/VOCA uses an approach that addresses the needs of individuals in the rural areas, and contributes to national economic growth through the development of the private sector by supporting agribusiness, cooperatives and NGOs working to increase profits and assist agricultural development. This directly contributes to USAID's Strategic Objective No. 1 (SO1): Raising Rural Incomes and ACDI/VOCA's goal of ensuring increased viability of the agricultural sector by strengthening targeted sub-sectors within the agribusiness community.

Program Accomplishments

By September 30, 2001, 30 ACDI/VOCA volunteer assignments had been completed: 19 in Uganda, eight in Kenya and three in Tanzania. During this reporting period, a total of eight volunteer assignments were undertaken in Uganda and Kenya. The following is an overview of completed volunteer assignments:

Uganda

- ACDI/VOCA volunteer Lise Corbeil (assignments #155022 and 155023) assisted in the design of loan tracking system for two village banks, Mbarara Savings and Credit Association (MBASCA) and KAARO Savings and Credit Co-operative Society (KAARO).

MBASCA's overall strategy is to reduce poverty at the household level through innovative small-scale agricultural enterprises leveraged through a simple savings and credit scheme. It has registered impressive growth in only two years and anticipates increased volume of business in coming years. However, MBASCA lacked the technical knowledge in loan appraisal, tracking and management, especially in making sound economic decisions. It thus sought technical assistance in semi-computerization of its loan tracking system.

KAARO, on the other hand, is a rural community credit project with four branches and plans to open up two more. KAARO has previously benefited from ACDI/VOCA capacity building technical assistance and has tremendously grown from a one-village organization to a "community" organization. In order to achieve its objectives of rural development through provision of rural banking services, there was need to strengthen the institution in credit management. KAARO therefore sought ACDI/VOCA volunteer consultancy services in capacity building in loan/credit management, tracking and general efficient loan management principles.

The volunteer consultant assisted both MBASCA and KAARO in building their capacity in loan/credit appraisal, tracking and general efficient loan management principles. She also assisted both organizations in developing a "tool box" with the ultimate goal of strengthening the institutions in the area of credit management.

- ACDI/VOCA Volunteer Philip Brown (assignment # 155024) provided assistance to KAARO in the development of a comprehensive business plan. In a bid to expand the savings and credit scheme, KAARO faced challenges in planning its operations in order to lower its operational costs, which would enable it to operate profitably. KAARO therefore sought technical assistance in business plan development to address the financial and institutional targets of the organization. The volunteer consultant assisted KAARO in streamlining its business development initiatives and expansion strategies. He further assisted the bank in enhancement of its micro-credit service delivery systems in the rural grass-root communities.
- ACDI/VOCA Volunteer Dr. Abdul Salaam (assignment # 155024) provided technical assistance to a local NGO, the Children and Wives of Disabled Soldiers Association (CAWODISA), in association strengthening. Its goal is to improve the welfare of its members and restore hope and confidence in the lives of the disabled husbands/fathers. To achieve this

goal, a number of economic activities (milk cooling center, markets, day care center, bakery, tree nursery – to mention but a few) are being undertaken by the CAWODISA members. Technical assistance was required in helping them to devise strategies to better manage their profit centres, and to work more effectively together as an association serving its members. Dr Salaam made a critical analysis and evaluation of each profit centre and made appropriate recommendations to foster cohesion of the association. He also developed mobilization strategies and most importantly a guideline to group savings formation.

An ACDI/VOCA volunteer who has been blind since birth; Dr. Abdul Salaam successfully accomplished the capacity building assignment for CAWODISA. Dr. Salaam's unique empathy, enthusiasm and courage spilled over the "shattered souls" of the disabled soldiers and re-kindled their desire to work together and develop an effective association meeting their needs. The additional assistance of Mobility International, a U.S. NGO for the disabled that partly facilitated Dr Salaam's guide in-country throughout the assignment, was a great contribution to the success of the project.

Kenya

- ACDI/VOCA volunteer consultants Dick Dugger and Folahan Ayorinde (assignments 155020 & 155021) provided technical assistance to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in the production and marketing of Vernonia Galamensis. The volunteer consultants are both leading international experts in the use of vernonia. For the last five years CRWRC in partnership with Mr.Dugger, has tested the growing of Vernonia Galamensis (varieties ethiopica and gibbosa) with over 250 small-plot farmers. Mr. Dugger traveled to Kenya in 1997 to coordinate growing efforts and has been active in locating markets for the residual oil. Mr. Dugger (having an engineering background and agricultural experience in Zimbabwe in the growing, harvesting and seed handling of vernonia), has relied on Dr. Ayorinde, chemistry professor at Howard University, for technical advice on the chemistry and processing requirements for vernonia oil. The primary goal has been to develop vernonia as a cash/export crop for the semi-arid zone of Kenya.

The University of Nairobi and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) have assigned a research student and lent expertise from the Kenya gene bank, respectively. In the last year Mr. Dugger has found a market, and we have expanded the production of vernonia to about 100 additional farmers in Western Kenya. With the assistance of the volunteer CRWRC has tested manual oil extraction processing, has developed hand-operated mechanical seed cleaning, and has the additional need to work with a local seed-oil processor for pressing oil in batch quantities to meet the expected market demand.

- ACDI/VOCA volunteer consultants Cindy Carey and Dale Simpson (assignments 155018 & 155019) worked with the Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange (KACE) to develop a prototype website that will provide commodity information and marketing services. KACE in conjunction with ACDI/VOCA currently operate a regional commodity information system that provides weekly East Africa commodity information to over 250 recipients throughout the world. The work of the volunteers has assured that the information system is effective,

reliable, flexible and easily maintained. Both volunteers are skilled in information and communication technologies (ICTs). The volunteer consultants also provided hands-on training to staff in the maintenance and application of information systems.

Overview Table

	Project Number	Host Organization	Title of Assignment	Date of Assignment	Vol Name/State
1	WF100038	REDSO-Kenya	Commodity Information System	10/20/98-12/20/98	Complete
2	WF100039	REDSO-Uganda	Commodity Information System	10/20/98-12/20/98	Complete
3	WF100040	REDSO-Tanzania	Commodity Information System	10/20/98-12/20/98	Complete
4	WF10044	Sea Weed - Tanzania	Sea Weed Processing	01/03/99-02/13/99	Complete
5	WF100181	Sisal -Tanzania	Sisal Production	09/14/99-10/22/99	Complete
6	WF10088	Kalengyere Research Station	Research Impact Assessment	12/19/99-01/11/00	Complete
7	WF100189	Bulera Farm	Forage production and Preservation	11/08/99-11/28/99	Complete
8	WF100183	URDT	Association Strengthening	08/18/99-09/15/99	Complete
9	WF100192	SunFish Farm	Fish Farming	09/03/00-09/30/00	Complete
10	WF100203	VEDCO	Market Information System	01/11/00-02/12/00	Complete
11	155001	Bahati Slaughter House-Kenya	Slaughter House Management	May 8-	Complete
12	155002	VEDCO	Capacity Building	10/13/00-10/30/00	Complete
13	155007	St Jude Center	Curriculum Development	09/15/00-10/20/00	Complete
14	155008	St Jude Center	Capacity Building	12/03/00-03/23/00	Complete
15	155010	AT(U)	Business Plan Development	06/04/00-006/30/00	Complete
16	155011	AT(U)	Small Scale Irrigation Technology Development	01/14/01-02/08/01	Complete
17	155012	Matilong	Association	08/20/00-	Complete

		Youth	Strengthening	09/16/00	
18	155013	St Jude Center	Project Proposal Development	08/04/00-09/01/00	Complete
19	155015	URDT	Small Scale seed Production	09/15/00-10/20/00	Complete
20	155016	Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Seed Business Manual Development	01/12/01-02/14/01	Complete
21	155017	Kaso Rural Development Trust (KRDT)	Micro Credit Management	01/01/01-02/14/01	Complete
	155018	Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange (KACE)	Market Information Systems	07/01/01-07/27/01	Complete
	155019	Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange (KACE)	Market Information Systems	07/06/01-07/28/01	Complete
	155020	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)	Vernonia Oil Extraction and Processing	05/18/01-05/31/01	Complete
22	155021	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)	Vernonia Production and Marketing	05/18/01-05/29/01	Complete
23	155022	Mbarara Savings and Credit Association	Micro Credit Management	08/02/01-08/18/01	Complete
24	155023	KAARO Cooperative Society	Micro Credit Management	08/19/01-09/02/01	Complete
25	155024	KAARO Cooperative society	Business Plan development	09/05/01-09/28/01	Complete
26	155025	Children & Wives of Disabled Soldiers	Association Strengthening	07/26/01-08/26/01	Complete

		Association (CAWODISA)			
27	155026	Children & Wives of Disabled Soldiers Association (CAWODISA)	Business Plan development		Volunteer ready to come
28	155027	St Jude Center	Trainer – Advanced proposal writing		Searching
29	155028	AT (U)	Evaluation of savings mobilization activities		Searching
30	155029	AT (U)	Soil fertility management		Searching

Program Direction

Assignments planned for the year 2002 will continue to provide technical assistance to commodity sub-sectors where small farmers have the potential to increase profit margins through cooperative efforts, association strengthening, and the cultivation of alternative markets. Technical assistance will complement previous volunteer interventions as well as look at new areas of focus.

Uganda/Tanzania

ACDI/VOCA is working with several partners to promote and strengthen sustainable rural development initiatives with the overall strategy of reducing poverty and increasing incomes at household level. In Uganda, a greater focus will be made to increase the value of agricultural products and strategies that prepare the foundation for USAID/ Kampala's formulation of Strategic Objective 7 (SO7). ACDI/VOCA will field approximately eight volunteers to Uganda in FY2002 and will continue working with proven partners such as St Jude's Rural Training Center, Appropriate Technology-Uganda, Kagadi Women's Rural Credit and Savings Society, Uganda Rural Development and Training Organization, and Volunteers in Development Concerns. A new partner will be the East African Fine Coffees Association (EAFCA), which will receive support to address marketing barriers hindering smallholder coffee farmers.

ACDI/VOCA will field approximately two volunteers in Tanzania in FY2002 to work with established and well-respected institutions in the area of agribusiness development. These partner organizations will have sufficient resources to be able to arrange and supervise a volunteer assignment with the assistance from ACDI/VOCA staff in Kampala. These host organizations will be identified through discussions with in-country NGOs, USAID and government representatives.

Kenya

In FY2002 ACDI/VOCA will field approximately 10 volunteers to Kenya, where farmers are struggling to adapt to alternative market mechanisms as state marketing boards collapse, making targeted technical assistance and training very timely. ACDI/VOCA has been working in Kenya

for the last three years in close collaboration with the Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange (KACE). The issue of market efficiency and transparency throughout the commodity system value chain will be another focus of ACDI/VOCA's expanded presence in Kenya. The goal is to decrease transaction costs, reduce risks, and enhance confidence in marketing systems, in order to increase the incomes of smallholder producers, processors and traders. ACDI/VOCA has established a modest office in Nairobi, Kenya, housed within KACE in order to keep costs at a minimum and to maximize synergy between the two organizations. This in-country presence will allow ACDI/VOCA to use volunteers in a more focused way, thereby producing measurable and lasting impact. Continuity between assignments will also be assured, and assignment scopes of work will more accurately meet the needs of high-potential host organizations in Mission targeted areas. The goal of the GHA FTF program is to enhance food and income security by working with farmer-based associations at the grassroots level, strengthen the capacity of institutions working for agricultural development, and utilize local capacity and technology to reach alternative local, regional and wider international markets.

D. BARA

Program Overview

By: Kathleen Thompson, BARA Representative

Focus of the BARA FTF Program

BARA's recruitment activity has been part of the ACDI/VOCA effort in the Greater Horn of Africa with principal efforts focused on Ethiopia and the Horn Regional countries of Uganda and Kenya. BARA carried responsibility for its own program development in Kenya, and efforts were closely articulated with overall FTF activities and USAID strategic objectives. The ACDI/VOCA BARA FTF program operated in Kenya for three years and in Ethiopia for five years. During this six-month reporting period, program efforts in Kenya and Ethiopia have included the successful completion of seven assignments -- three to Kenya and four to Ethiopia. Assistance has focused on the provision of technical support in the areas of microenterprise and capacity building in Kenya, and training in accounting for cooperatives in Ethiopia.

Connection with USAID Mission's Strategic Objectives

Relationships with the USAID/Kenya Mission were exceptionally strong, with BARA FTF efforts providing clear support for the Mission's strategic objectives. Mission staff have been particularly appreciative of the broad base of knowledge evidenced by volunteers during debriefings, and have noted the significant value of reports providing information pertaining to conditions in rural areas at some distance from Nairobi.

Efforts of BARA to mainstream gender issues into all aspects of FTF efforts were also well-received by USAID/Kenya staff, as the Mission continues to develop capacity for integrating gender considerations into their portfolio of development interventions.

Total Volunteer Assignments

A total of 44 BARA FTF volunteer assignments have been carried out throughout the LOP, against a five-year target of 45. In fact, by mutual agreement, the planned 45th BARA assignment was turned over to A/V Ethiopia to recruit and manage. During this six-month

reporting period, three volunteers were placed in Kenya and four were recruited to provide support to Ethiopia.

Changes in methodology, geographic coverage, or staff. Policy changes impacting program. New alliances/partnerships.

None, as the project was closing out. After September 30, 2001, funds would no longer be available for the BARA portion of ACDI/VOCA's Farmer-to-Farmer Program effort.